

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 1, after the title insert the following:

This application is the US national phase of international application PCT/FI2003/000748 filed 9 October 2003 which designated the U.S. and claims benefit of FR 02/12605, dated 10 October 2002, the entire content of which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 1, as follows:

In other words, ~~[[a]]~~ the first problem ~~which the invention proposes~~ the applicant had to solve ~~[[is]]~~ was to develop a support based on natural and/or cellulose fibres which are capable of floating for long at the surface of a liquid, in particular of water.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 5.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 10, as follows:

~~A third~~ Another problem which the invention proposes to solve and which relates more particularly to the treatment of aerobic lagoons is to develop a medium which prevents the proliferation of algae.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 21, as follows:

In other words, ~~the invention first of all relates to the~~ applicant's invention is to use, as floating support~~[[, of]]~~ a support based on cellulose and/or natural fibres, of which all or some of the OH functional groups have reacted with a grafting reagent RX, where R is a suitable hydrophobic group in order to be able to be in the liquid state at a temperature of at least 200°C at atmospheric pressure and in order to be able to react on the OH functional groups at least under certain reaction conditions, while producing covalent grafting of hydrophobic groups R onto the OH functional groups with formation of a volatile compound HX under the reaction conditions.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 7, as follows:

~~In an advantageous embodiment~~ Advantageously, the fatty acid halide is a saturated or unsaturated aliphatic acid halide comprising at least 16 carbon atoms, advantageously behenic acid.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 18, as follows:

Thus, ~~the subject of the invention is also a medium~~ is discussed, in particular for the treatment of aerobic lagoons, provided in the form of a support based on cellulosic and/or natural fibres, of which all or some of the OH functional groups have reacted with a grafting reagent RX mentioned above, the medium ~~being characterized in that it additionally contains~~ containing carbon black.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 24, as follows:

~~In a preferred embodiment,~~ Advantageously the support additionally contains epichlorohydrin resin.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 1, as follows:

The problem of floatability having been resolved, the applicant then sought to solve ~~the second problem mentioned above, namely, in the context of the removal of pollution from anaerobic lagoons, the development of a medium based on activated carbon fibres, endowed with increased mechanical resistance~~ two further problems. A problem which the present invention proposes to solve is to develop a filtering medium particularly suitable for the treatment of anaerobic lagoons which contains a high content of activated carbon fibres or powder while being endowed with increased mechanical resistance.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 22, as follows:

~~As already~~ The filtering medium is advantageously used as a floating support,
and as already mentioned, the supports as described may be advantageously used for
removal of pollution from anaerobic or aerobic lagoons.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25.